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to enable them to prove to the satisfaction of the quarantine officer on the Texas border their whereabouts during the ten days preceding their arrival there, and so expedite their passage to the frontier.

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE,
Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Assistant Surgeon Cofer wires as follows, June 26 :

MEXICO, *June 26, 1899.*

Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:

Have had a consultation with railroads and vice-consul. Was cordially received. Railroads heartily cooperate. Certification assured.

COFER.

THE DANGER FROM THE DISMANTLING OF INFECTED BUILDINGS IN SUMMER.

A very strong confirmation of the dangers arising from the dismantling in summer of old buildings that have been infected with yellow fever is given in a report from the United States consul at Vera Cruz, showing that the present severe epidemic of yellow fever in that city has followed upon a general remodeling of the houses. As stated in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS No. 19, for May 12, 1899. the Surgeon-General, realizing the danger of this dismantling, addressed a letter to the president of the State board of health of Louisiana, calling attention to the outbreak of yellow fever in Franklin, La., last year, which probably originated in the dismantling of an old house that had been infected the year previous, and also to the case in Havana harbor, where the dismantling of an old barge was followed by yellow fever in the crew of a vessel near by. (See PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, April 28, p. 608.) The president of the Louisiana State board of health, upon receipt of this letter, informed all the health officers of the State, of this danger.

The following extract from a report from the United States consul at Vera Cruz confirms the belief in this source of infection :

"Early in the spring of last year the city council passed a resolution to have owners of property comply with an ordinance then existing, to repair and fix up buildings in the city, to have them clean up, repair, and whitewash their buildings. Most of the owners preferred previous to doing so to make such general repairs and alterations as were needed; hence they commenced to take out partitions, break down entire walls, remove roofs, etc., and coral rock, brick, stone, plaster, roofings, and debris, was everywhere piled up in the streets in front of the houses being repaired. Since then there has not been in this city a street where one or more buildings were not undergoing a general repairing. It was then that yellow fever made its appearance and as the work progressed the fever increased until it is now an epidemic."